

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are currently pending, with new claim 28. The independent claims are method claim 1 and system claim 15.

The title of the invention is now amended as requested by the Examiner. The new title more clearly indicates the invention to which the claims are directed.

The Present Final Action is Premature

Present claim 12 was objected to in the previous non-final Office Action, but was not rejected. Now, claim 12 is being finally rejected as obvious from a combination of three references (see page 5 of the present Office Action). Claim 12 is now being rejected for the first time, without any mention of any of its limitations including its central limitation, which is compiling statistics to determine the most problematic parts of the training software. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the present final Office Action is premature.

The Claims as Amended are Statutory

Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Applicant agrees that the claimed invention falls within the technological arts. Applicant now amends claims 1 and 15 in order to clarify the useful, concrete, and tangible result produced by the present claimed invention. These amendments are supported at least by page 5 of the application, line 26 and by page 3 of the application, line 24. The central point of the invention is not to enable the user to complete the programming on the programmable logic controller (PLC), but rather to assist the user to proceed with that task.

The Present Independent Claims are Not Obvious

Independent claims 1 and 15 are again rejected as obvious from *Chiang* (U.S. Patent No. 5,535,422) in view of *Mustafa* (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0059378 A1).

Paragraph 4 of the final Office Action cites column 18 of *Chiang*, lines 65-67. This paragraph of *Chiang* discusses a “show-me” function that will “perform the correct next action” when an error is detected. It is this feature of *Chiang* which the final Office Action is citing against the present independent claims. The final Office Action is contending that, when *Chiang* performs the next action, *Chiang* is providing the “customized training resources” of the present independent claims. But, according to the cited portion of *Chiang*, this show-me feature will actually perform a step, instead of assisting the user to proceed with that step. According to the present amended claims, the user will do the programming of the programmable logic controller (PLC). For example, in figure 3 of the present application, the programming input signal 304 emanates from the user and not from anywhere else. The amended independent claims (and also new claim 28) now reemphasize this important feature of the present invention.

With respect to the *Mustafa* reference, applicant respectfully submits that this is a weak reference that does not fill the many gaps left by *Chiang*, and thus does not render the present claimed invention obvious. *Mustafa* does not specifically address providing help with software or programming issues, or providing any kind of training to a user whatsoever. There is nothing in *Mustafa* to suggest that the online help is any kind of training at all. Moreover, there is no discussion in *Mustafa* of any products at all, much less products that remain unmodified while training resources are modifiable (see present claim 14). Applicant respectfully submits that it is quite a stretch to suppose that *Mustafa* provides help with products, and that those products include software products, and that the help includes any type of training, and that the training is modifiable while the software products remain unmodified. It is very difficult to discern anything like this in *Mustafa* even if one knows what one is

looking for, and of course a person skilled in the art would not have known that at the time the present invention was made.

CONCLUSION

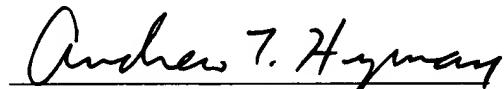
For the reasons explained, it is earnestly requested that the finality be withdrawn, that the application be reconsidered, and that the claims be allowed.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner please contact Applicant's attorney by telephone, if doing so might facilitate or expedite examination of the present application. It is believed that early passage of the present claims to issuance would be appropriate according to the relevant statutes and regulations, in view of the novel and useful invention claimed by the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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